



Your Energy Connection

Rocky Mount Public Utilities



Keeping the Holidays Safe

The holidays are here and the air is filled with excitement. Displaying holiday decorations is a time honored tradition for many families. As important as it is to have a festive home, it is equally important to remember to take the proper safety precautions when decorating this holiday season. "Each year there are unfortunate instances where proper safety precautions were not taken, and someone is hurt. By taking a few extra minutes to check everything, you can prevent electrical accidents during the holidays," said Rocky Mount Public Utilities Director, Rich Worsinger.

Electrical safety in the home is important year round. It is especially important during the holiday season when many homes have more lights and decorations. It's also a very hectic time of year. It is easy to forget to turn off the lights and decorations while out of the house or before going to bed.

Keep your holiday safe and happy by following these electrical safety tips:

- * Be sure to inspect all holiday lights and extension cords before decorating.
- * Check for Underwriters Laboratories (UL) approval label before purchasing or using any lights.
- * Check for red or green UL marks on lights and extension cords. Red is for indoor/outdoor use, Green is for indoor use only.
- * Never overload extension cords or electrical receptacles.
- * UL recommends stringing no more than three strands of lights together at one time.

- * Before bringing your tree inside, make a fresh cut to allow proper watering daily.
- * Check for frayed or loose wires in lights and extension cords.
- * Never use staples or nails to secure outdoor lights.
- * Remove any dry, brittle, or dead tree branches. As lights warm during use, dry limbs can catch fire and spread quickly.
- * Do not place a tree or any other decorations on or near a lit fireplace.
- * Remove any dead tree limbs that are near power lines. If the limb is resting on a power line, DO NOT TOUCH IT. Call Rocky Mount Public Utilities immediately to have it removed safely. Winter weather can weigh down power lines and tree limbs and can pose a safety hazard along with loss of power.
- * Turn off all holiday lights when away from home or before going to bed.
- * If replacing a bulb or strand of lights, be sure to unplug the strand from the outlet. Also, replace any burned out bulbs with ones of the same wattage.



Rocky Mount Public Utilities

wishes you a
safe and happy holiday!



December 2008

BEAT THE PEAK

“Peak” or “Peak Demand” is the greatest amount of electricity used at one time by an electric system, normally when a large number of customers are using appliances at the same time. By controlling the electric load or load management, we can keep electric costs in control.

Rocky Mount averages approximately less than 10 days per month load managing.

There are several options available:

Electric Water Heater Control

Water heaters are cycled off during load management periods. Controlling water heaters will not affect the amount of hot water available.

Customers receive \$2.00 credit each month.

Electric Heat Strip Control

Heat strips are controlled during the winter load management periods, while compressors continue to provide heat.

Customers receive \$15.00 credit each month if the temperature falls to 25 degrees or below on a non-holiday weekday.

Central Air Conditioning Total Control

Customers receive \$20.00 credit each month for three months during the summer months. The compressor is turned off for the entire load management period.

Fans will continue to circulate the cool air in your house, but the compressor will not generate any new cool air.

There are no installation or maintenance charges associated with this program.

Call 972-1284 for more information.



Christmas in Rocky Mount

*all events are free unless otherwise noted.
For more info: (252) 972-1151

Christmas Parade

Marching bands, performers, & Santa Claus
Downtown Rocky Mount
Sunday, December 7 | 3:00 pm

Downtown Winter Celebration

Join Santa & Mrs. Claus for caroling, a petting zoo, & refreshments
Enjoy horse drawn wagon rides for \$1 per person.
Imperial Centre | Friday, December 19 | 3:00-8:00 pm

Winter Wonderland

Watch it snow inside the Imperial Centre
Several other seasonal activities will be available
December 16-20, 23-24, 26-27 | 3:30 pm

The 40th Annual Christmas Chorus

A holiday concert featuring new & traditional favorites
Tickets: \$5

The Theatre at the Imperial Centre 972-1266
December 4, 5, & 7 8:00 pm –and– December 14 | 2:00 pm

Don't miss the holiday laser light shows at Cummins Planetarium!
For show times, call 972-1167 or visit www.imperialcentre.org

Tree Trimming

Properly trimmed trees are a critical part of providing customers with reliable power year round. Fallen trees and branches are a major cause of power outages during a hurricane or ice storm. Flickering or dimming lights can be caused by branches rubbing or laying on power lines. This winter season, it is important to keep an eye out for any limbs that you may see on power lines near your home. Do not attempt to remove limbs that may be an obstruction to a power line.



**For more information on
Tree Trimming,
call**

Allen Richardson at (252) 467-4856

For more information about
Rocky Mount Public Utilities see our website at:

utilities.rockymountnc.gov